

Message Text

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62
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 962
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PGOV, WB, US
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BERLIN: LOCAL IMPACT

REF: BONN 8258 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY:

SECRETARY'S MAY 21 VISIT TO BERLIN SERVED TO ALLAY DOUBTS ABOUT AMERICA'S STEADFASTNESS BOTH IN ASSURING BERLIN'S SECURITY AND IN INSISTING ON FAIR INTERPRETATIONS OF QA. LOCAL REACTION OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE. ALL ASPECTS OF WHAT PRESS TERMED "BLITZ VISIT" RECEIVED EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE. MAXIMUM ATTENTION, AS EXPECTED WAS DEVLOTED TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: MANY NEWSPAPERS GAVE TEXT OF SPEECH IN FULL, OTHERS PRINTED EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS. SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE REMARKS AND

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LUNCHEON TOAST WERE ALSO CITED IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES. DAY'S EVENTS

WERE RECOUNTED, OFTEN IN MINUTE DETAIL AND VISIT WAS NUMBER ONE ITEM ON WEST GERMAN TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS EVENING MAY 21
END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS AND MEDIA COMMENTARY ON SECRETARY'S VISIT HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE, WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT IT SUPPLIED NEEDED REASSURANCE AND VITAL BOOST FOR MORALE OF BERLINERS, CONSERVATIVE BERLIN MORGENPOST, FOR EXAMPLE, STRESSED THAT "ESPECIALLY IN THIS PHASE OF DIFFICULTIES IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT KISSINGER RENEWED THIS HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP (BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE U.S.) IN THE NAME OF PRESIDENT FORD AND OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE." NUMBER OF EDITORIALS HIGHLIGHTED SECRETARY'S POINT THAT BERLIN REMAINED TEST CASE FOR CREDIBILITY OF POLICY OF DETENTE. PAPERS AS DIVERSE IN OUTLOOK AS TAGESSPIEGEL AND BERLIN MORGENPOST COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON SECRETARY'S EMPHASIS IN RATHAUS SPEECH ON "MORAL" FACTORS-- QUITE ASIDE FROM STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS-WHICH UNDERLAY U.S. COMMITMENT TO BERLIN. MORGENPOST REMARKED THAT, IN ERA WHEN BERLIN IS INCREASINGLY SPOKEN OF AS NORMAL CITY, IT BROUGHT "SPIRITUAL RENEWAL TO HEAR THE AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER REFER CLEARLY TO THE SPIRITUAL, POLITICAL, AND MORAL BACKGROUND OF THE EXISTENCE OF BERLIN." COMMENTING ON RENEWAL OF U.S. COMMITMENT, PRO-SPD SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT NOTED THAT "A COMPARISON BETWEEN VIETNAM AND BERLIN HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABSURD, AND THEREFORE THIS CITY WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE GUARANTEES OF THE U.S. AS LONG AS IT WISHES".

3. INTERVIEWS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS DURING OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER VISIT SIMILARLY REFLECTED ENTHUSIASM AND PRAISE FOR VISIT. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER REMARKED THAT SECRETARY'S RATHAUS SPEECH CONSTITUTED "VERY PRECISE INTERPRETATION OF THE U.S. CONCEPTION OF ITS RIGHTS AND DUTIES IN BERLIN," AND THAT VISIT IN GENERAL AMOUNTED TO "AN IMPRESSIVE CONFIRMATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE U.S. ASCRIBES TO BERLIN". SPD FRAKTION LEADER IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAUS SAID THAT RENEWED REASSERTION OF U.S. SECURITY GUARANTEE IN PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WAS OF "EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE" FOR CITY, AND THAT EXPRESSED READINESS TO ENSURE STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF QA WAS EquALLY GRATIFYING. FDP FRAKTION LEADER VETTER STRESSED THAT, WITH NOW-REASSURED SECURITY, BERLINERS WOULD BE ABLE TO LOOK ONCE AGAIN AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS OUTSIDE OF CITY.

4. WHILE MEDIA RESPONSE OVERSHELMINGLY FAVORABLE, THIS IS CITY NEVER SATISFIED BY REASSURANCE, AND SOME COMMENTATORS QUALIFIED GENERALLY POSITIVE JUDGMENT OF VISIT. MORGENPOST, FOR INSTANCE, EXPRESSED WISH THAT SECRETARY HAD FOCUSED ON ASPECTS OF QA THAT NEEDED IMPROVING. AND BERLIN-DATELINED EDITORIAL IN DIE WELT COMMENTED THAT RATHAUS SPEECH REPRESENTED

EXPRESSION OF HOPE, RATHER THAN CERTITUDE, FOR BERLIN'S FUTURE,
AND THAT ONLY IF SOVIETS LEARNED THAT US TOOK COMMITMENTS
MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY IN BERLIN THAN ELSEWHERE WOULD VISIT
ULTIMATELY NOT BE IN VAIN.

5. TABLOID BZ AND POPULAR EVENING DAILY ABEND UNDERSTANDABLY FEATURED

LESS SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF VISIT, DEVOTING ATTENTION TO SECURITY
REQUIREMENTS, SPEED OF CAVALCADES, AND MRS KISSINGER'S
ACTIVITIES WITH MANY PHOTOS. ABEND FELT SECRETARY'S VISIT HAD
ACCOMPLISHED ITS PURPOSE IF WITHOUT SPECTACULAR EFFECTS. IT WAS A
CONCRETE POLITICAL PRESENTATION, NOT A DUTY EXERCISE. HIGHPOINT OF
VISIT TO BZ WAS SECRETARY'S REMARK "WE AMERICANS LEARN-BERLINERSTEACH".

6 IN GDR REACTION ADDITIONAL TO THAT REPORTED USBER 993, GDR
FONMIN NEGOTIATOR MITDANK TOLD SENAT OFFICIAL MAY 22 THAT HIS
SIDE HAD CAREFULLY WATCHED WHO HAD SAID WHAT AND WHO HAD SPOKEN
OR NOT SPOKEN. WEST BERLIN PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT GDR HAD WAITED
UNTIL TWO HOURS AFTER SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE BEFORE ANNOUNCING
THAT VISIT HAD TAKEN PLACE. EAST EUROPEAN CONSULAR AND MILITARY
MISSION REPRESENTATIVES, WITH EXCEPTION OF YUGOSLAV MINISTER,
BOYCOTTED RATHAUS SPEECH TO WHICH THEY WERE INVITED, PRESUMABLY
IN REACTION TO GENSCHER'S PRESENCE. GEORGE

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